

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4219

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF

SUBJ: UNEF: ISRAELI AIMS

1. AT MY INVITATION, AMB TEKOA H CALLED ON ME AFTER SC SESSION OCT 25 AND GAVE US PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON CHARACTER AND CONDUCT OF UNEF. TEKOA H INSISTED HE UNINSTRUCTED, BUT EXPECTED TO RECEIVE MOMENTARILY SPECIFIC GUIDANCE.

2. TEKOA H SAID MOST FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT WAS THAT UNEF BE OBSERVATION FORCE ONLY, UNARMED, WITH NO MILITARY FUNCTIONS. HE CITED UN DOCUMENT A/3302 OF 6 NOV 1956 AS PRECEDENT, NOTING THAT HAMMARSKJOLD HAD DESCRIBED CONGO FORCE AS "NOT IN ANY WAY A MILITARY FORCE." UNEF PERSONNEL SHOULD CARRY SIDE ARMS AT MOST, AND HAVE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS THESE COULD NOT BE FIRED EXCEPT IN RESPONSE TO BEING FIRED UPON. HE ADDED THAT EGYPTIAN AMB MEGUID SEEMED TO AGREE WITH THIS POSITION.

3. PURPOSE OF UNEF SHOULD BE TO ASSIST PARTIES, NOT TO "STAND ABOVE" THEM. POSITIONING OF UNEF ELEMENTS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES. UNEF SHOULD HAVE NO POWER TO FIX CEASEFIRE LINES. (IT WAS NOT CLEAR JUST HOW RECOGNIZED CEASEFIRE LINES WOULD IN FACT BE ESTABLISHED.) COMPOSITION OF UNEF WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BY AGREEMENT NOT JUST CONSULTATION
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WITH THE PARTIES. HE ASKED NOT TO BE QUOTED ON OBSERVATION THAT, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, MRS. MEIR WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT AGREE TO REC ON ISRAELI SIDE NATIONALS OF ANY STATE LACKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. ON ONE POINT ONLY DID TEKOA H

FAIL TO INSIST ON PREROGATIVES OF PARTIES: IT SHOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REMOVE UNEF ON THE INITIATIVE OF A PARTY. BUT ONLY WITH SC AGREEMENT.

4. ASKED TO SUGGEST NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL, TEKOA H WAS VERY RELUCTANT TO SPECULATE. HE MENTIONED THAILAND AS ONE ASIAN COUNTRY THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE ACCEPTABLE. HE THOUGHT MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ALL. WE REMINDED HIM THAT INDONESIANS HAD EXPERIENCE AT PEACEKEEPING, HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN ELIMINATING CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL FROM RES 340, AND NOT BLINDLY PARTISAN. WE SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ISRAEL TO ACCEPT UNEF ELEMENTS FROM WORLD'S LARGEST MUSLIM STATE. TEKOA H DEPRECATED THIS IDEA.

5. REGARDING SYG'S INITIAL STEPS PURSUANT TO RES 340, WE INFORMED TEKOA H THAT SYG, HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED BY SC TO SEND SWEDISH, FINNISH AND AUSTRIAN "BATTALIONS" FROM CYPRUS TO EGYPT, WAS MOVING FORTHWITH TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. I ALSO INFORMED HIM THAT WALDHEIM PLANNED, BY WAY OF "REPORT OF STEPS TAKEN", TO GIVE UP ONLY BORAD INITIAL INSTALLMENT TOMORROW WITH FURTHER DETAILS TO BE PRESENTED THROUGH CONSULTATION PROCESS. TEKOA H WAS PLEASED BY THIS. TEKOA H, WHO HAD ALSO SPOKEN WITH SYG EARLIER IN AFTERNOON, SAID HE HAD TOLD WALDHEIM THAT TOMORROW'S STATEMENT SHOULD BE VAGUE AND NOT ONTROVERSIAL. HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT IN DEFINING MANDATE SYG USE SUCH PHRASE AS "TO ASSIST PARTIES IN OBSERVANCE OF CEASEFIRE." TEKOA H NOTED THAT IN STATEMENTS TODAY WALDHEIM HAD REFERRED TO SENDING PEOPLE "TO EGYPT" AND THAT HE SAW NO DIFFICULTY WITH USING THIS PHARSE TO MAKE CLEAR THEY NOT THERE TO FIX CEASEFIRE LINE.

6. I ALSO INFORMED TEKOA H OF SYG'S INFO THAT 70 SOV NATIONALS HAD TURNED UP UNINVITED IN CAIRO AND ANNOUNCED THEMSELVES AS RE-INFORCEMENTS FOR UNTSO. I TOLD TEKOA H THAT REPRESENTED A HELL OF A LOT OF SOVIETS WHO UNINVITED
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BY ANYONE. I TOLD HIM WALDHEIM HAD PROMISED HE WOULD MAKE NO MOVE TO ACCEPT SINGLE ONE WITHOUT SC APPROVAL AND PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH US. I SAID WALDHEIM SEEMED TO BE RESPONDING REALISTICALLY TO THIS DEVELOPMENT AND WARNED HIM NOT BE PRESSURED BY SOVS.

7. WHOLE CONVERSATION WAS MOST FRIENDLY AND TEKOA H DEPARTED IN EXCELLENT MOOD, SAYING HE WOULD BE IN FURTHER CLOSE TOUCH ONCE HE RECD FURTHER EXPECTED INSTRUCTIONS.
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